

Commerce and Trade IGA – Final

Issue:

1. Manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism are highly dependent on the maintenance, expansion, and coordination of our transportation systems (highway, rail, air, and water).
2. Federal dollars should adequately account for international trade volumes between Michigan and Ontario in addition to fuel tax funding sources.
3. Need to look at connectivity and capacity to all Michigan borders and all modes of transportation.
4. Commerce and trade should more fully utilize all forms of transportation (air, water, rail) to relieve highway congestion.

Goals:

1. Increase capacity and efficiency of transportation infrastructure to enhance movement of goods and materials.
2. Decrease congestion by increasing capacity and efficiency for all modes of transportation infrastructure, while respecting the surrounding communities and the environment.
3. Improve the flow of goods through customs by applying necessary human and technical resources, both federal and state, to improve mobility at border crossings.

Actions:

1. Examine use of technology at border crossings to reduce delays and form a working group for that task from the stakeholders. Conduct inspections of cars, trains, and trucks at locations other than directly at the borders (an off-site inspection).
2. Continue to expand the use of technology to improve operations and reduce delays across all modes.
3. Develop campaign to educate the public on the importance of commerce and trade and insuring the necessary infrastructure is available.
4. Tie border crossing funding to the value of trade at the border crossing.